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PATLAR

SINCE 1982 VOICE OF GAY AMERICA JULY 1990

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PATLAR ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

BEGINNING OUR 9th YEAR - PROUDLY SERVING YOU AND THE GAY COMMUNITY

PATLAR

Voice of Gay America

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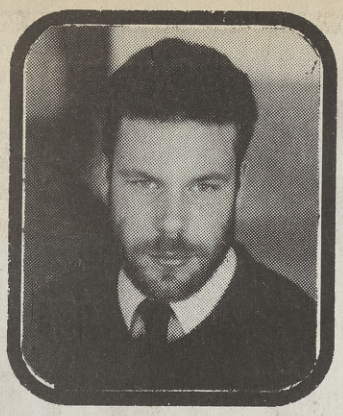
This Month's Cover:
Joseph's Town & Country Staff wishing Patlar the best success in upcoming years! Stop by Joseph's at 2062 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento and have a drink and meal with us. Cover photo by: J. Jones.

IN MY OPINION



by Mel Dahl

Gay liberation. I should really say something about the progress of the gay-liberation movement, how wonderful it is to be gay, how far we have come, and how with a little more time and organization most of our goals are within striking distance. It so happens I believe all of that. But that isn't what I want to talk about this month.

The theme of gay liberation—and Black liberation and women's liberation, for that matter—is the right to make choices about one's life, and the right to be whatever one wants to be. Rather than believing diversity to be a liability, we consider it a benefit. Rather than glorifying conformity, we glorify individuality. The theme of gay pride is rightfully: Dare to be yourself.

Imagine my mortification, then, to learn that some gay activists, falsely so called, have taken it upon themselves to engage in a new sport called "outing." The game, which is actually a variation of another game called "uproar," consists in dragging the rich and famous out of their closets and publicizing the homosexuality of celebrities just because they are celebrities.

Now, while I enjoy gossip as much as the next person, I am entirely in sympathy with celebrities who believe that their status as celebrities does not make their private lives the world's business. It is fun to speculate on who is and who isn't, but the bottom line is that the theme of our movement is that people have the right to make choices. A choice not to come out of the closet is every bit as valid a choice as the choice to shout from the rooftops. Conformity for the sake of conformity is just as evil regardless of whether it is conformity to the expectations of straight society or of gay terrorists.

Just as women's liberation means that a woman who wants to be a full-time homemaker and mother has the same right to make that choice as the woman who wants to be a rocket scientist, and just as Black liberation means that a Black who wants to be a janitor has the same right to make that choice as the Black who wants to be a physician, so gay liberation must—it can be no other way—mean that the choice to remain quiet is as valid a choice as the choice to be public.

The bottom line here is that an individual enjoys a fundamental right to make decisions about his or her own life. Others may not agree with those decisions, they may urge a different decision, they may even believe with some plausibility that those decisions are socially harmful. But after all of that has been said, the bottom line is still that each individual has the full right to make decisions about personal sexuality: when and how and in what manner it will be expressed.

I wish that every gay person would be public about his or her sexuality. It would do wonders, both for the movement and for their own self esteem. I have never met anyone out of the closet who

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

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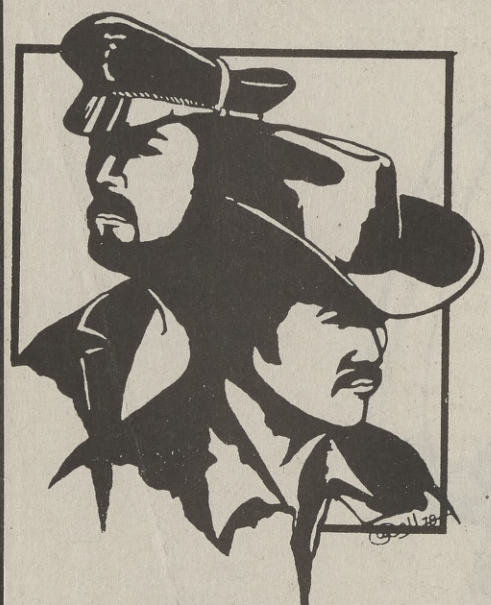

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MUSIC

by Philip Spotts

Whatever happened to REAL, genuine rock and roll? Where's the kind of music that cuts with an edge of danger, capturing the excitement, tension and passion of perpetual adolescence with both a swaggering cockiness and a whisper of fatal desperation? The Stones, The Doors, early Alice Cooper—who's going to inherit their legacy? Take a listen to TSOL and you'll find something that's been missing from too many so-called rock and roll bands for too long—real spirit, real power, and real emotion. In Spanish they call it "cojones."

Since the group (originally known as True Sounds of Liberty) exploded on LA's competitive underground rock scene in 1980, it quickly established itself as a leader of the pack. The group's discography is impressive; in addition to its early albums (many of which are now collectors' items), the group appears on various compilation records, have had songs featured in five films (including the cult classics Suburbia, Dangerously Close; Under Cover; and Return of the Living Dead) and three TV specials (including the notorious Amerika).

Over the course of the last nine years, the band has undergone some changes (haven't we all?), driving ever closer to a gritty, bone-crushing, hard-edged band of American rock and roll all their own. The latest addition to TSOL is Marshall Rohner, late of the Cruzados, replacing Ron Emory in a line-up that has been remarkably stable over the past few years.

The band is working on an as-yet untitled album; they are currently recording with John Jansen, who has previous credits with the likes of Britny Fox, Warrant and Faster Pussycat.

While it has been a couple of years since the band's last studio album, TSOL has been anything but dormant. Gigging incessantly across the country, the band has appeared with Gurls N' Roses (whose drummer, Steven Adler, sported a TSOL T-shirt in the "Sweet Child O' Mine" video), as well as releasing a live recording on independent Restless Records.

These efforts have showcased the band's original blues-based, stripped-down pure rock sound and generated a new wave of critical and fan enthusiasm. With their first record for the new decade just around the corner, TSOL has emerged from the Eighties intact, unscathed and true to their original vision. And there aren't too many bands—hell, there aren't too many people—who can make that statement with a straight face.

[Send record, tapes, and CDs for review/possible mention in this column to: Philip Spotts, 5027 North 24th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85015. Readers send the name of your Number One Band today—we will get their latest work and review it right here in this publication in upcoming issues.]

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PSYCHIC IMAGES

by Guru Pomah Yhohrundi

[The psychic images presented here are exactly what the title infers: The Guru's mental images of the answers to the questions asked by people who write in. Questions are answered as space permits. For a personal answer, mark your letter "personal" in the left-hand corner and send a SASE to Guru, c/o Patlar, PO Box 22402, Sacramento, CA 95822. You can also order Guru's book, **Epigrams on Being**, for his observations on life's perplexing questions, $8 postpaid anywhere in the U.S., checks payable to Guru to above address.]

Dear Guru: Thanks for your answer to my questions. Things are working out as you predicted. I have a new job now, my sister has moved out of the house, and things are much better between my lover and me. Also, I won fifty dollars on the roulette wheel. Would you advise going to Reno again and maybe running it up?–LG, Sacramento.

Dear LG: You're welcome. No no, no running back to Reno to "run up" your "winnings." The thing to gamble on is your own ability, so you can really gain the means to "gambol."

Dear Guru: I don't know whether to believe in you or not. So to check you out, I want to know what you predict will happen to the demo tape I sent to the record company.–LR, Detroit.

Dear LR: By the time you read this, the recording company will have returned your tape marked "refused." They do that sometimes. Mostly they don't like unsolicited material. But take heart. I see a minor-league recording company really listening to your efforts sometime late August or early September. Next time you send a demo, make an inquiry first, either by mail with SASE, or by phone to see if the recording company is currently listening to new works. Ask who the terminal is to whom you should direct your submission. Trust your own knowledge and your own ability.

Dear Guru. My lover died of AIDS, and although I feel a tremendous loss, the good that has come out of this experience is that I realize that I must live each day to the fullest and not wait around hoping life will maybe get better tomorrow. I just want you to share this thought with your readers. BG, Out In Left Field

Dear BGOILF: I couldn't have said it better. It has been wisely written (by me in **Epigrams on Being**): "Decide what and who are important on the cruise-ship of life before the ship hits the iceberg."

To All My Readers: Thank you for your wonderful support. For those of you who have said you want your lives to be better, write down the five things you want most every day for four weeks, and get someone else to agree that you deserve to have what you want. (Cross them out when you get them, and mark the date they "arrived.")–PY

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ATTENTION ARTISTS:

The Sacramento Rainbow Festival is a three day fundraising event to benifit the Hope House and the Lambda Community Center. This year's Festival will include a lare art show. The show will be held September 2, 1990 in the Big Top, during the Street Fair. The Street Fair will run from 10 am to 6 pm and will feature entertainment, food, games, and art.

If you would like to display your art, contact
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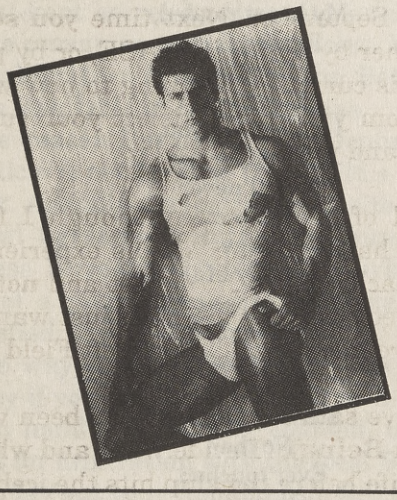

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[Editor's Note: We first published this poem in the May edition of Patlar. Unfortunately, we botched it. We're sorry about the errors, and we're happy to rerun the poem in its original form. Our apologies to the poet.]

LOVE

(Dedicated To A Paris Memory)

by A.F.

What, my God,
Have you done?
This revelation,
I will not
Survive it.
I sit here,
Alone.
Truth,
Simple truth,
Revealed.
It tears me.

I will love you,
'Til the day
I die.
Hate you for it,
As long
As I live,
The inspiration
Of my being.
Wrong me
A hundred times.
Shun me
Publicly, privately,
There can be
No other.
There can be
No you.

My heart rended,
Reason fails.
I hate you,
I love you,
I am not for you,
Nor you for me.
I shall never
Recover.
Bane
Of my life,
Of my experience.
Consuming fire
Of my passion,
Of my soul!
Stirring feelings
No man
Ever touched.
Opposites,
Incompatible,
With no hope,
No illusions,
My heart
Beyond tomorrow,
Beyond forever,
Belongs to you.

HORNER'S CORNER

by Lee Horner

[Free legal advice on assorted topics of general interest with appropriate editorial comment at no extra charge!]

Let's say you buy a brand new Camaro from your local Chevy dealer, drive it awhile, and find that you have transmission problems.

The car is taken to the dealer for warranty repairs. He keeps it a few days, returns it, and the problem is still there.

You take it back. He keeps it again. He returns it again. The problem is STILL there.

You take it back in again. You raise hell with the service manager. He calls someone at the manufacturer's zone office who comes up, looks the situation over, tells them how to fix it, they do so, and the car STILL doesn't work right.

Now what? Run through the yellow pages looking for a car lawyer? Probably not many out there who would handle a case like this, beyond the nasty-letter-writing stage anyway.

So what is your remedy?

There is a nationwide program that is probably the best-kept secret by the auto industry; it costs you, the consumer, nothing to access. It is the Auto-Line Arbitration Program of the Better Business Bureau, available in larger bureaus.

The reason I'm picking on General Motors in this article is not because they build a sub-standard product. Actually it's just the opposite. They have a national agreement with the Council of Better Business Bureaus to submit to arbitration any claim of a purchaser of a GMC vehicle who is dissatisfied.

The way it works is simple. You can have an attorney if you want one (at your own expense), but you can handle everything yourself, too. You file a request for arbitration with the local BBB.

You lay out your complaint in full to them. They get the dealer's side of the story, and if you want, they will attempt to resolve the problem by informal mediation between you and the BBB and the dealer. That usually doesn't work.

The next step is for a formal arbitration. The

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Etiquette for Gay Dating

[Excerpted from **GAY RELATIONSHIPS: How To Find Them, How To Improve Them, How To Make Them Last** by Tina Tessina, Ph.D. (Jeremy P. Tarcher, Inc./$10.95/1990).

Dating—what a terrifying word! What a grueling ritual! The setup is this: You're supposed to go out with someone you hardly know, usually pay an expensive tab, have a wonderful time, and fall in love forever.

Does this sound realistic to you? It doesn't to me either. I don't believe in dating strangers. Why waste all that time, money and energy on someone you may not even enjoy? Like it or not, asking for a date is usually interpreted as a statement of intention, and expectations tend to rise. Therefore, wise people date selectively, with forethought.

Before dating someone new, spend some casual time together. Going out for coffee, to lunch, to a group activity, or going "dutch" keeps the expectations, and the pressure, lower.

Gay and Lesbian dating is:

- for people who have established a good reason to get closer.
- for lovers who want to spice up their lives with romance or celebrate a special occasion.
- for old friends when you want to show them they're special.

What's Different About Gay Dating?

Dating is a ritual and so follows certain social rules. Because of social prejudice and lack of role models, gay men and lesbian women lack social rules in certain situations and often end up imitating inadequate heterosexual models. Dating is one of those situations.

A major difference in gay dating is confusion about who leads and who follows. Since, traditionally, heterosexual dating assigns these roles by gender (the man leads, the woman follows), the roles

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

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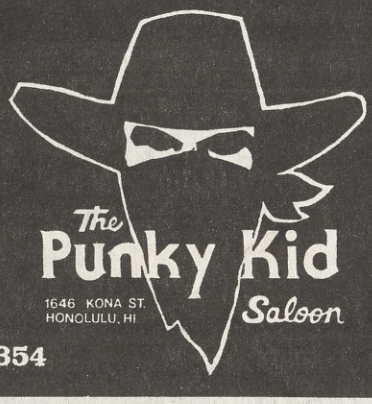

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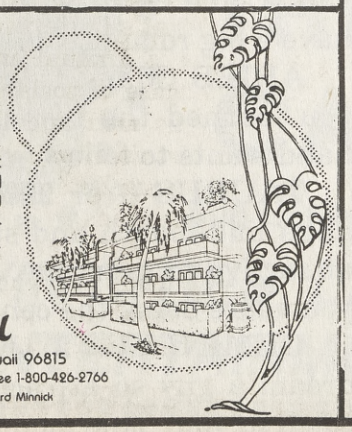

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HOROSCOPES

by Dr. Pat Larr

CANCER (Jun 21-Jul 22): A fling is just what you need. This month you manage to get it out of your system.

LEO (Jul 23-Aug 22): Money just seems to fly out of your hands, but this month you receive a big wad from an unexpected source.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sep 22): A handsome stranger becomes more friendly as the month proceeds. By month's end you'll be bosom buddies.

LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 22): Oh, the ties that bind! How long are you going to chain yourself to that dead weight? Time to get out.

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21): Everything comes apart at the seams for you this month. Yes, it's diet time again.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21): A mini-vacation leads to romance on the road. A truck stop provides just the change of pace you needed.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19): A jealous friend causes trouble for you and your special someone. But this trouble will blow over by month's end.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18): You know how you like a tight spot. This month your love life is between a rock and a hard place. Enjoy!

PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20): A blond with a washboard stomach longs to scrub you silly. Come clean with this guy and you'll have a big romance on your hands.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19): Isn't it time you learned the two-step? A hunky cowhand wants to follow your lead.

TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20): The stars align mid-month and suddenly you're very attractive to everyone. And you know how you adore being the center of attention.

GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20): Did you ever dream a guy so attractive would be interested in you? This month it happens.

OVERLOOKED OPINIONS

Overlooked Opinions, Inc. (OOI), is the nation's first firm that researches the opinions of the lesbian, gay and bisexual community by operating a national opinion panel.

"The response has been tremendous," says Rick Dean, Vice President of OOI. "In the panel's first month, over 1000 people have joined. Further, current members have sent in an additional 5000 names of lesbian, gay and bisexual friends, family and associates. We are very excited about the response. The bigger our panel is the more accurately it represents our community! In fact, every lesbian, gay and bisexual person is invited to join. It's as simple as calling (312) 792-7800, or writing us at 3712 N. Broadway, Suite 277, Chicago, IL 60613.

What's involved? "Panel members are sent surveys on a regular basis," says Jeffrey J. Vitale, President of OOI. "With each survey, we include a short summary of the responses from the previous questionnaire. All responses are confidential. OOI collects the data and analyzes the results. In short," Vitale continued, "it is our goal to provide information to the lesbian, gay and bisexual community and to educate the social mainstream. We are in the business of discovering how our attitudes and political beliefs as lesbians, gay men and bisexual persons differ from those of the society as a whole."

Are there immediate challenges? "What we are doing has never been done before," answers K. Ann Zimmermann, Vice President of OOI. "In a very real sense, we are charting new territory. One of our biggest challenges is building a panel that accurately represents the tremendous diversity of our community. Presently our panel is about 30% female and 70% male. Moving toward gender parity is a pressing concern, as is reaching communities of color."

How do gay men and lesbians differ from the average American? "We are about to find out," Vitale answers, "and our preliminary findings have uncovered a whole suite of surprises. In fact, the phrase 'the gay 90s' is going to take on new meanings in the minds of corporate America over the next few years!"

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PANTY GAB

by Cat Comiskey

The style of panties that women select for daily wear are not simply swatches of material used to cover their urinal zones. Panty style is indicative of a woman's inner core. Much like a personality test, the type and color of panty selected reflects a woman's true drives and desires. Concisely put: Art is to paint, as woman is to panty.

A decade ago we didn't find women deliberating intensely over racks of colorful underbuddies. A simple six-pack of cotton briefs could last an entire season. Standard and practical, they served the purpose of shielding our personals from the hungry teeth of our copper flies. Modern girls now reckon to the significance of panty selection. No longer just a medicinal garment, but now lower-body fabric with a theme. Like little butt flags of womanhood, we proudly wear our undergarments as an expression of our inner selves.

Usually women who are less sexually active select a plain white panty for that Eleanor Roosevelt look. Since they have few sexual partners (or shall we say "victims" in this case), panty selection is not a priority. For the more athletic women (this applies to anyone who has played two or more seasons of softball or rugby), we have the renowned jockey underwear. Tight through the taut buttocks and flattering to the gradually flattening abdominal area. Sex addicts, of course, wear panties of lace, holes, and beads; these panties look all too similar to something that one might purchase at a craft show.

Color is another vital element in panty selection. Women who wear black panties need to spawn quickly. Women wearing red are usually polyorgasmic and sexually liberated. Women wearing blue and neutral colors are often trapped in a sexual limbo and are usually very impressed by those women wearing black or red.

Women wearing boxer shorts are surprisingly well adjusted and comfortable with their sexuality. Like men who wear pink or lavender sport shirts, they're well rooted in their gender and are consequently able to take greater social risks. Women in men's briefs, on the other hand, are from another planet. They relate to nomadic ice-age hunters and are able to reproduce asexually if no one will procreate (so to speak) with them.

Hopefully, now you're armed with panty facts and can pursue other areas of pantology. Maybe now you'll be more conscious and thoughtful about your panty selection. On the other hand, maybe you'll be like the rest of us and just wear whatever is clean.

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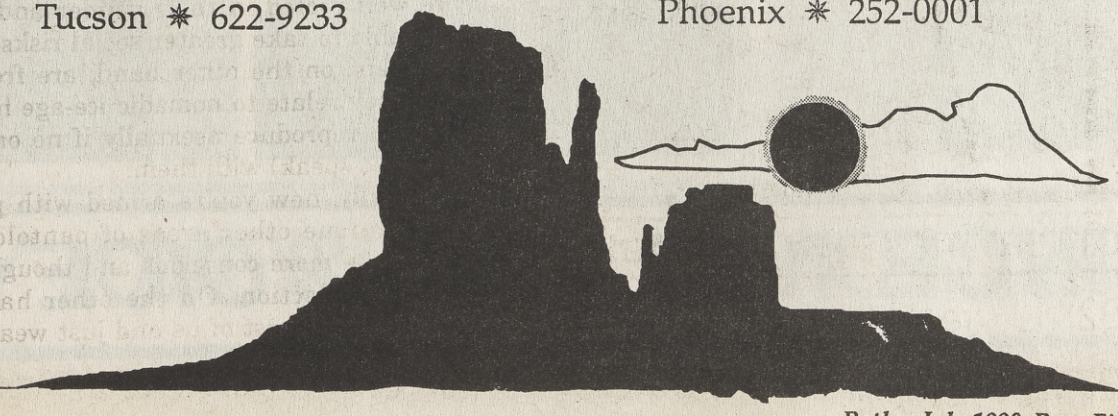

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Co-Dependency?

What is co-dependency? Certainly you have heard of it—what with the fact of the many books on the issue of recent months, including one which described ours as a "co-dependent society!"

Well, from one currently meeting with a co-dependent group, I simply have to say that I am in process of learning just what it is and what it means—to me. Indeed, with this, as with anything, each of us must "sort out" and discover just where—if at all—his or her disposition in relationships is co-dependent, or tends toward co-dependency.

Originally, the term was used essentially to describe individuals who were in a relationship with an alcoholic or other addicted person; in other words, those whose role had become one of "taking care" of the alcoholic, and bailing him or her out and propping him up, covering up the mistakes, making excuses and in general, "putting a good face on it." It was easy to assume, if one was in that kind of situation, that the "problem" was simply that of the addicted person. However, many found—particularly those whose partners finally "got it" and stopping drinking or drugging and began to attend AA meetings—that there must be more to the problem than the connection with the drug that their partner had—or had had. For, once that partner stopped drinking, the "co"—the non-drinking partner—found their life totally turned upside down, and all of the energies they had previously put into "handling" the "problem" of the spouse were now suddenly "free energy" and often set them spinning off into space—inner space, primarily. In other words, they began to realize that they, somehow, also had a "problem," and that that problem was primarily a matter of "taking care of" the spouse, and that when that role no longer was necessary, they felt somehow cheated, or not longer important.

Gradually the realization came that it was not simply partners of alcoholics who fell into this pattern of "taking care" of their spouses. All kinds of other people did it, too! It also came to be recognized that the central characteristic was one of "care-taking." Further, it was noted that people who had come from alcoholic families had early on developed this pattern of taking care, cleaning up and/or denying the "messes" the drinker created . . . and, they then went on to choose—often unwittingly—alcoholics as spouses when they grew up.

With time, however, it came to be seen that not only people coming from alcoholic homes, but people from other kinds of "dysfunctional" families also developed similar patterns of co-dependence. Children who were expected, or forced, to "be adult" or take on adult responsibilities, children who "filled in" as replacement parents when a parent died, or left the household, children who were severely and strictly "controlled" and not allowed to experience a full range of the playful free abandon

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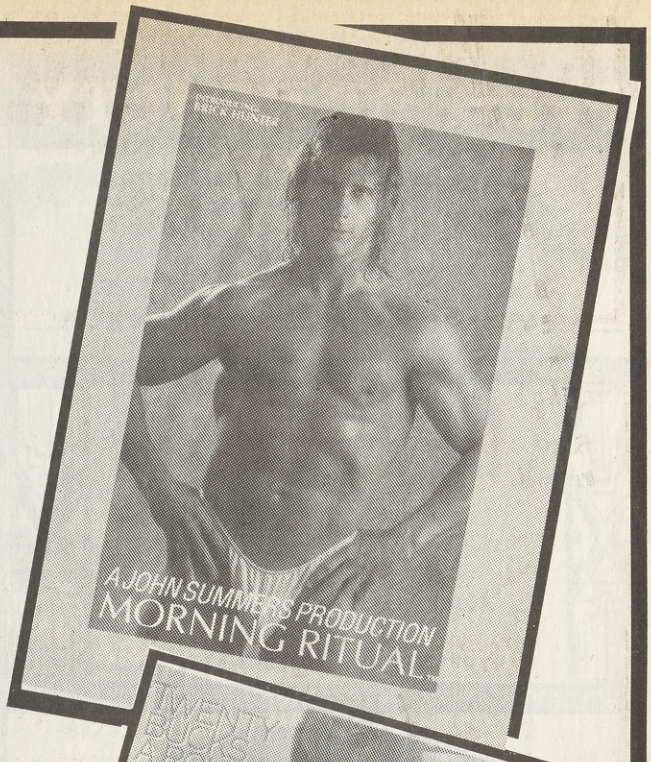

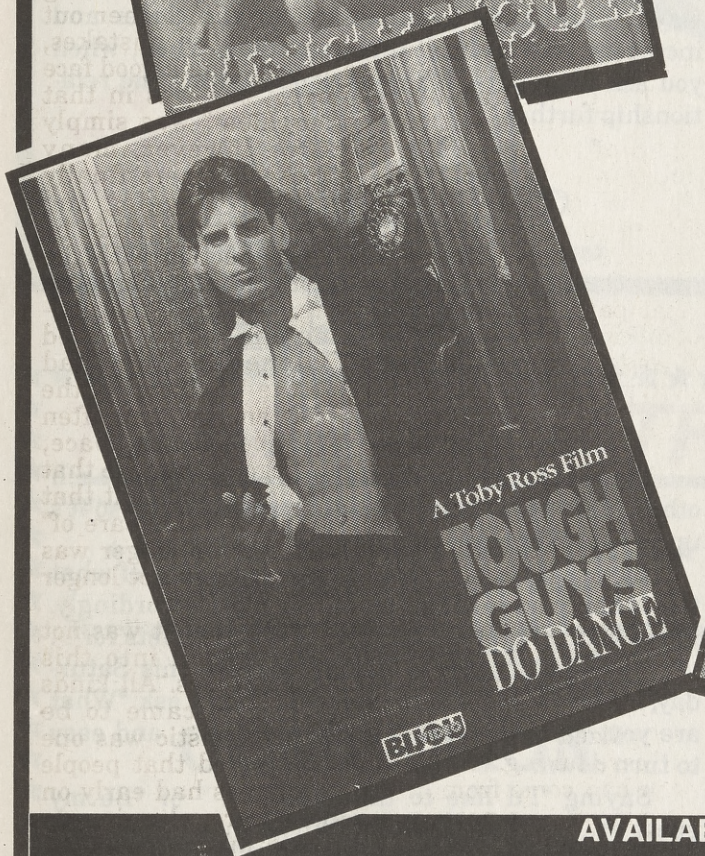

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DATING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

obviously lose their meaning in same-sex dating. For us, it's a question of preference or personality, and it's worked out individually.

It is not necessary to get "stuck" either in leading or following. Remember that the rules are flexible in gay and lesbian relationships, and you and your partner can choose to switch. If you're feeling obligated to lead or follow, discuss it. When following, you need to be honest about what you want. Don't assume your date can read your mind. If you state your preferences gently, a considerate person will understand. If your date pressures you, stand your ground now, before it becomes a pattern.

A second difference in same-sex dating is the confusion over whether you are potential lovers or friends. Building a friendship is important either way. Casual time together brings you closer and increases your mutual understanding. Then, when you ask for a date, it's clear you're taking the relationship further.

The First Date: A How-To Guide

You've met, talked, and gotten to know each other. Your friend hasn't made the first move, so it's up to you. What do you do?

By this time, you should have some idea of what the other person likes to do, so plan accordingly. Make your invitation specific: "I've got tickets for . . . "; "The gay center is having a dance this Saturday," "I know a great restaurant." Don't ask "What are you doing this weekend?"—too vague, and easy to turn down.

Saying "I'd like to take you . . . " or "Be my guest at . . . " lets your date know that you're paying. Asking and paying makes it a date, with the implication of interest. If there's any out-of-pocket cost for your partner, let him/her know before agreeing to go.

On a first date, sitting and talking for hours over dinner can be too intense. An entertainment—a movie, concert, or sports event—you can discuss over coffee afterward is less pressured. Suggest a group event, such as a party, dance, or excursion where you can have a little time alone, with other people to help keep it light. A first date is just another step in getting closer, not a commitment.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

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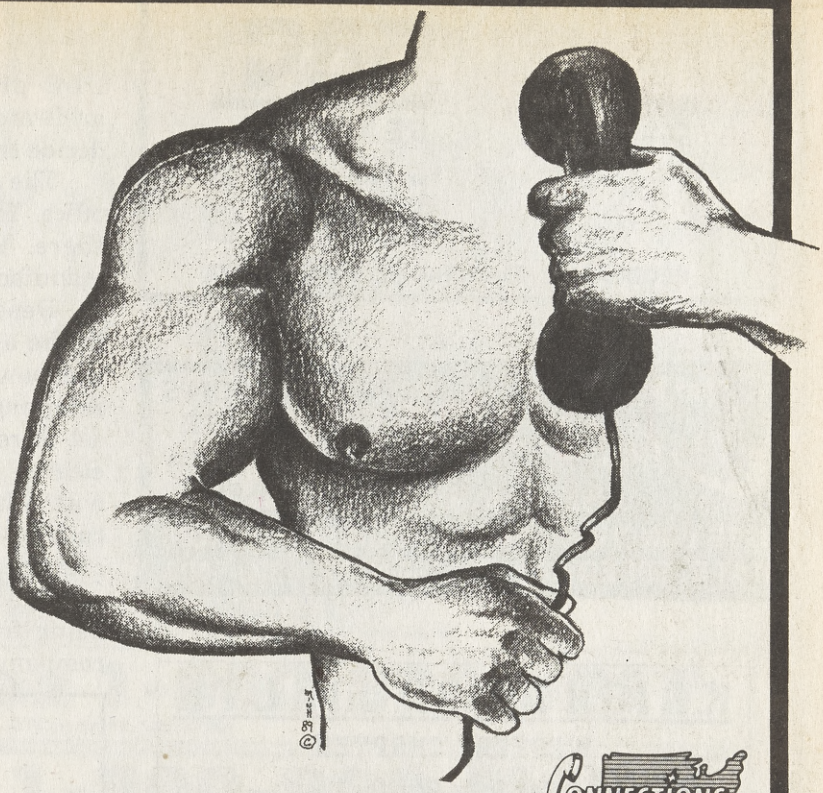

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HORNER'S CORNER

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The arbitration is conducted usually at the BBB office. You and the dealer or manufacturer are both there. You give your side of the story and the manufacturer gives its side.

Depending on what the customer has requested in the arbitration papers, the arbitrator may have the power to order the vehicle repaired again, retaining jurisdiction over the matter until the last set of repairs is completed; he may order a "meat cleaver" taken to the transmission, in our example, with a brand new one installed; or he may order a cash buy-back of the vehicle allowing for the use the customer has had from the vehicle.

The neat thing about this process, in addition to being free, is that the decision is binding on the company if the customer accepts the award, but it is

not binding on the customer who is free to pursue the matter in the court system.

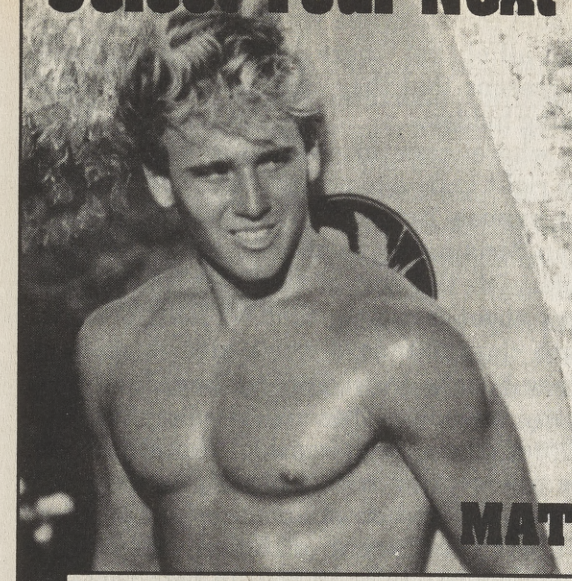
Why is this program such a well-guarded secret? I really don't know. The BBB will send literature to anyone who asks about it; it's just that they don't have the resources to advertise it! The manufacturers understandably don't advertise it because it might make people think that they put out a sub-standard product. And certainly lawyers who get rich off suing car companies aren't about to publish this program because substantial legal fees would be diverted from lawsuits that would otherwise be necessary.

Another interesting thing is that the arbitrators are, for the most part, regular people. I have been a BBB arbitrator since about 1979, right when I entered law school. You do not need any particular background to be an arbitrator, just common sense and two days of training at their free arbitrator's school. It's a volunteer position but great for those who want to put something back into a system that has given them opportunity.

For those who like helping others, it's excellent. The program is not just limited to car complaints. I've arbitrated complaints against CPAs, pool-service companies, etc. As long as all parties agree in advance to the arbitration, it is an excellent tool for dispute resolution.

We'll talk again next month!

Select Your Next Mate



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IN MY OPINION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

regretted that decision. If I had my life to do over again, I would come out five years before I did. But having said all of that, there are many gay people who have reasons that they consider entirely valid for remaining hidden.

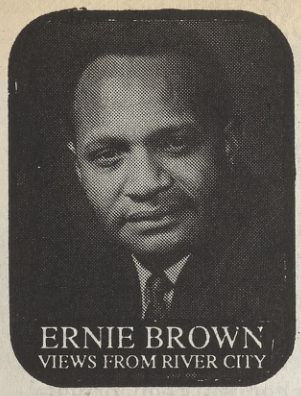
Those who engage in outing will argue that there is no right to be a hypocrite, and that there is a duty to expose hypocrisy. But where is the hypocrisy in deciding not to share a certain portion of one's life with the rest of the world? All of us have things about ourselves that we keep private. Except with close friends, I won't talk about how much money I make in a year, my health, or the details of my sexuality. Those parts of my life are private. Other people don't consider those parts of their lives private, and will cheerfully tell anyone who wants to know how much they make, the details of their most recent operations, and what exactly it is they like to do in bed. In both cases, a choice has been made: I view those parts of my life as private; other don't. Am I a hypocrite for not announcing to the world my annual salary?

Hypocrisy consists of actively perpetuating a lie, of saying one thing and doing another. I think if

I publicly implore those who have anointed themselves to babble about private matters which are none of their business to find some more constructive place to channel that energy.

(God forbid) Jesse Helms or Bill Dannemeyer or Jerry Falwell were gay, a good argument could be made for exposing that fact, not because of a notion that a celebrity's sex life is public property, but rather because those gentlemen have actively declared war on the gay community, and it is proper to return fire when fired upon. And therein lies the difference: a gay person, whether a celebrity or not, who is quietly minding his own business has the right to live his life as openly or quietly as he likes. A gay person, whether a celebrity or not, who has actively declared war on the gay community, should expect that all's fai r in love and war, and our movement combines both.

I publicly implore those who have anointed themselves to babble about private matters which are none of their business to find some more constructive place to channel that energy. The gay celebrities have done nothing to deserve this treatment, and our movement has done nothing to deserve this treatment. Don't expect respect for your own privacy if you aren't willing to respect that of other people.



ERNIE BROWN
VIEWS FROM RIVER CITY

There is nothing more universally commended than a fine; the reason is that people can commend it without envy. And a fine day we all had at our Sixth Annual Lambda Fair. The Freedom Fair Committee deserves a round of applause for a job well done. I have never before seen such a well-behaved crowd (over 7000) . . . In fact, that entire week leading up to the Fair was an outstanding one. Performing artists for AIDS-related charities (PAARC) did an outstanding job on their Third Annual Benefit Performance. I just wish it could have run longer. I actually thought I was on Broadway in New York. It was THAT GOOD! . . . Next year, let's have more ethnic food at the Fair . . . LaKish has asked me to thank each & everyone of you for your participation & donation for her auction. She was able to raise over a thousand bucks!!!! . . . There are some fun things we all can looks forward to in July. On July 28, at the Merc, LaKish's & Stacey's BBQ, starting at 12 noon til there ain't no more . . .That evening, starting about 6 PM, there will be a show—stupendous entertainment is planned. Come one, cum all! This will be a fundraiser to AIDS Client Service Fund, a very important organization . . . Starting on weekends only, at the top of the Townhouse, a piano bar. Now you can eat your brunch & dinner to the sound of music. A wonderful idea. And wait until you see that grand piano! It even inspires me to play, but I'll spare you . . . Faces still have busses going to Stockton to Faces Too, on Sats. Check with Faces (Sacto) for schedule . . . JTC has a hot summer in store for you. To name a few. Champagne Brunches, Happy Hours, Men's Night Out, Boot Kickin' Ho-Down, Ladies' Night Out, Comedy Shows, Pool Sittings, and a Lot More. Check with them for schedule . . . Have you been to the Buffalo Club lately? No? Well then, what are you waiting for? You're in for a surprise . . . At Faces: July 13 thru 15, Afrocentric Weekend Celebration, a real biggie, sponsored by The African American Gay Community. Stop by Faces and get the details; you won't want to miss this one . . . The Sacramento AIDS Foundation recently announced plans to construct a resident to provide end-stage care for people with AIDS. The Foundation is looking for a site to house a ten-bed facility plus the group's administrative operations. The project will cost $1 million and take at least a year to complete. The agency will seek funding from private donors and from city, county, state, and federal sources. Let's all get behind this important project.

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WALKER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

of childhood . . . these and many others often developed "caretaking" patterns which they then went on to apply to the spouses whom the selected—all of whom seemed to "need" caretaking! Voila! A new co-dependent relationship comes to flower!

But, you may say, what is wrong with "taking care?" After all, I am a teacher, or a nurse, or a therapist or a physician, and I am "taking care" of people in my professional role. And, yes, I do a bit of "taking care" of my wife or husband or my children or others close to me. Does that mean I am "co-dependent?"

The answer is, "Yes, perhaps." All of us, or almost all, do some amount of "care-taking." I mean, we assist old ladies across the street; we comfort the child who has fallen and is crying; we listen sympathetically to a friend in suffering or in grief . . . Does that make us "co-dependent?"

Well, not necessarily. We all do good deeds. We all "assist" others. We may even loan money to people we know won't pay it back. And, certainly, we "put up" with some behaviors of lovers or spouses that may seem less than totally supportive of us and of our relationship. But what is the line that we can draw that will give us indication of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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DATING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Dos and Don'ts—Guidelines for Gay Dating

DOS:

● Do listen. Don't monopolize the conversation. You'll learn even more about your date, and be more relaxed.

● Do focus on friendship. This early, you can't know where it might go, so concentrate on developing the friendship.

● Do get feedback. Offer your comment on the event or the restaurant, and ask your date what he or she thought of it, for future reference.

● Do let your date know if you enjoyed his/her company. A complement is always welcome. If you'd like to do it again, say so.

● If you promise to call, mean it. If you've decided not to continue the relationship but feel you can't say no, don't make empty promises.

DON'TS:

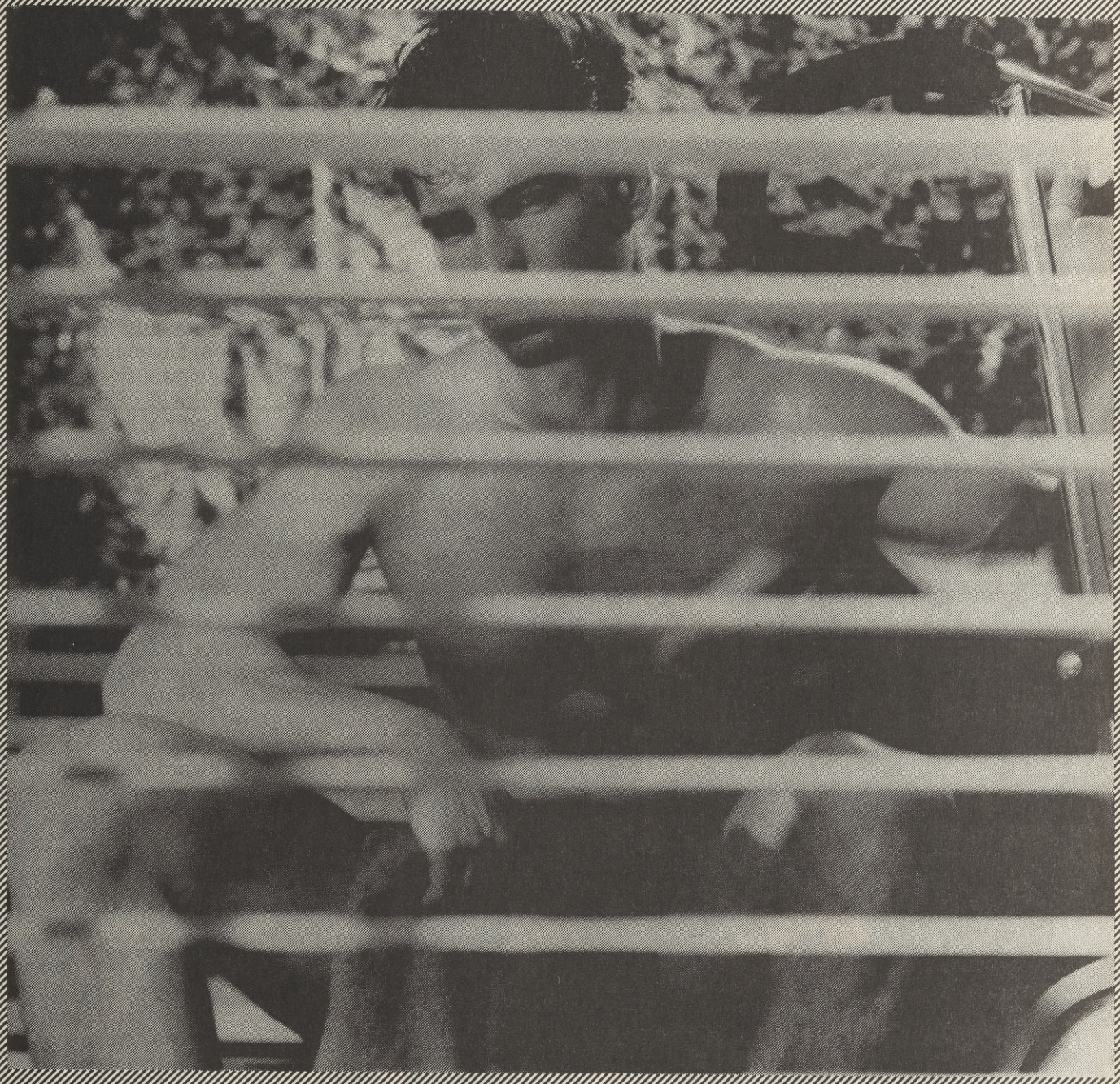
● Don't be afraid of silence. Occasional silences allow a conversation to feel natural and unforced.

● Don't make sex the objective. Good reasons for going slowly into sexual activity include: Reducing the risk of sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS; avoiding the awkwardness of intimacy with a total stranger; averting codependent obsession; and having sex to look forward to. If and when sex is right, it will happen—there's no advantage in rushing.

● Don't date beyond your budget. It doesn't impress your date if, in the long run, you have to make an embarrassing confession, and "buying" someone's company doesn't work. A wide disparity in income calls for frank discussion early on. If your date spends a lot on you, reciprocating with a home-cooked meal, a hand-made gift, or needed repair work will even the tally.

Following these simple guidelines, getting to know each other, and focusing on fun can change your dating from grueling to great! Enjoy!

I WANT YOU!



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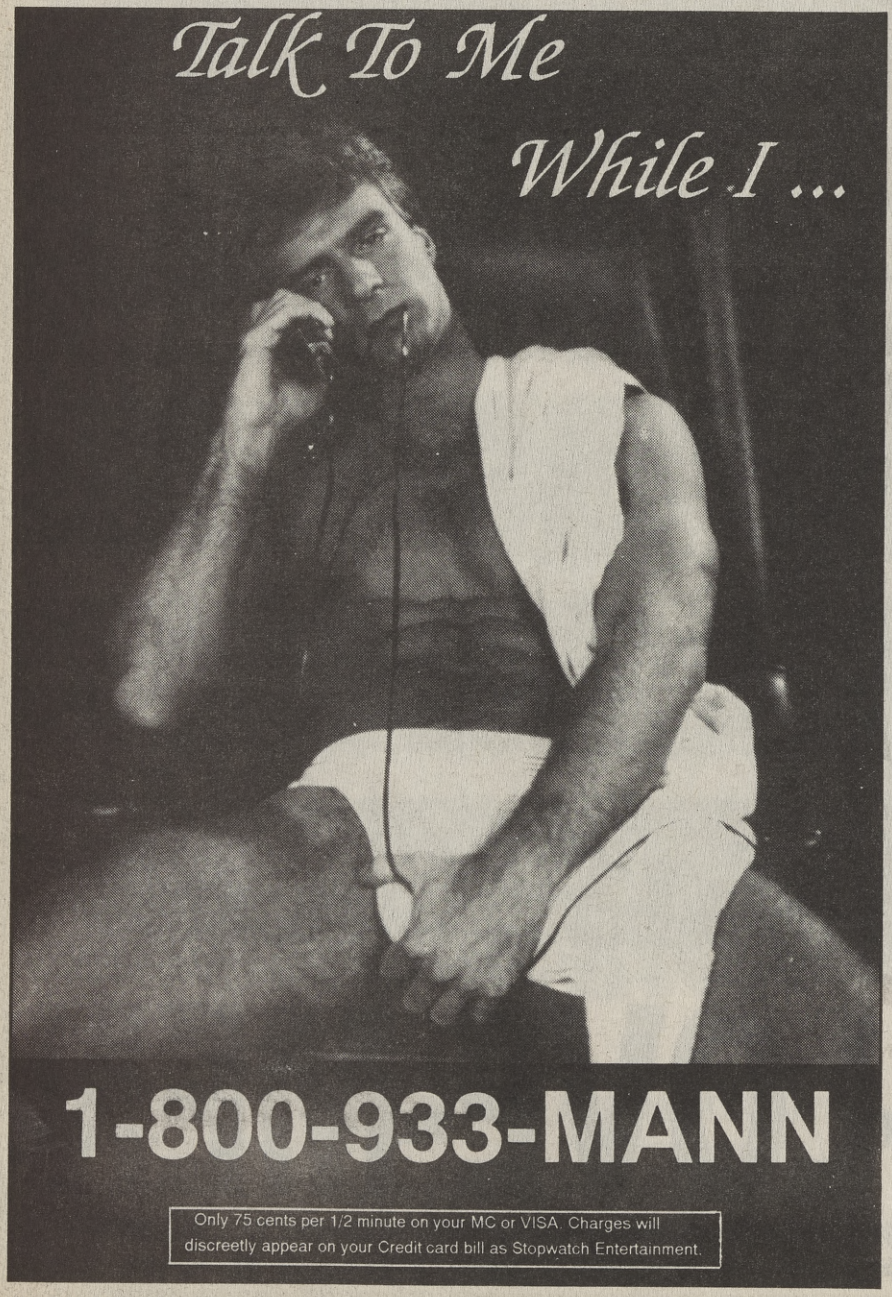
WALKER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

when we are exceeding the bounds of common decency and appropriate assistance and passing over into co-dependent behavior?

As I said in the beginning, we each have to establish our own guidelines in this matter. But in doing that, it seems to me that a valuable reference point is found in this:

"Are we able to 'assist' this person without seriously depriving ourselves?" Oh, certainly there are times when our "giving a hand" may inconvenience us. But if our giving of ourselves ultimately means that we put that "other" first in all situation and regularly, or almost always, put ourselves in "second place" with the thought that "Oh, it doesn't really matter; I didn't want to go to the theater that evening anyway, so I'll stay home and keep him/her company! I wouldn't want her/him left here alone while I was out enjoying that show!"

A true co-dependent does not know how to take care of himself or herself! Each of us is so busy making sure everyone else (or our spouse) is pleased, taken care of, made happy, that we simply don't even think about what might be important to making us happy! In a solidly co-dependent relationship, we eventually reach a point where we don't even know what would make us happy, for we can only think of making him/her happy!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That's my "marker" for co-dependency. You might want to try it on for size. Or, you may need to discover your own marker. Or, if you are fortunate, you will find that your relationship is not co-dependent! How can you tell? Well, it's fairly simple if you participate in a fully sharing, co-equal, totally sharing love-for-each other, then you are probably not co-dependent.

I would say just a word about what **Course in Miracles** says about the "special relationship," for if you are familiar with that, those of you who have explored the **Course**, the Special Relationship has most, or all, of the characteristics of a co-dependent one.

Thus my "marker" for co-dependency is this: "In this situation or with this choice, am I taking care of myself, or only my spouse?" And, "Am I truly getting what I need and want when I do this?" Any time I am not able to see that I'm taking care of myself and getting what I want, my alarm system goes off and I realize I'm functioning co-dependently.

What are you to do if reading this has made you begin to suspect that your relationship might be co-dependent? Well, you need not do anything! But if you would like to find out, or simply to learn more, find a local CoDA group and drop in for a meeting. Just listening to the sharing of others may open your eyes! It certainly did mine! Or, if you are too shy for that, drop me a long SASE and I'll send you some literature. You may then want to find a nearby meeting!

> *"In this situation or with this choice, am I taking care of myself, or only my spouse?"*

The goal of CoDA is enabling people to again find themselves and rediscover their own worth and value as human being AND, to make it possible for them to live richly and fully, out of the wonder and beauty of who-they-really-are! And, yes! There is hope, and the hope is radiant and shining. Check it out for yourself! You have nothing to lose but your chains, as Rousseau said!

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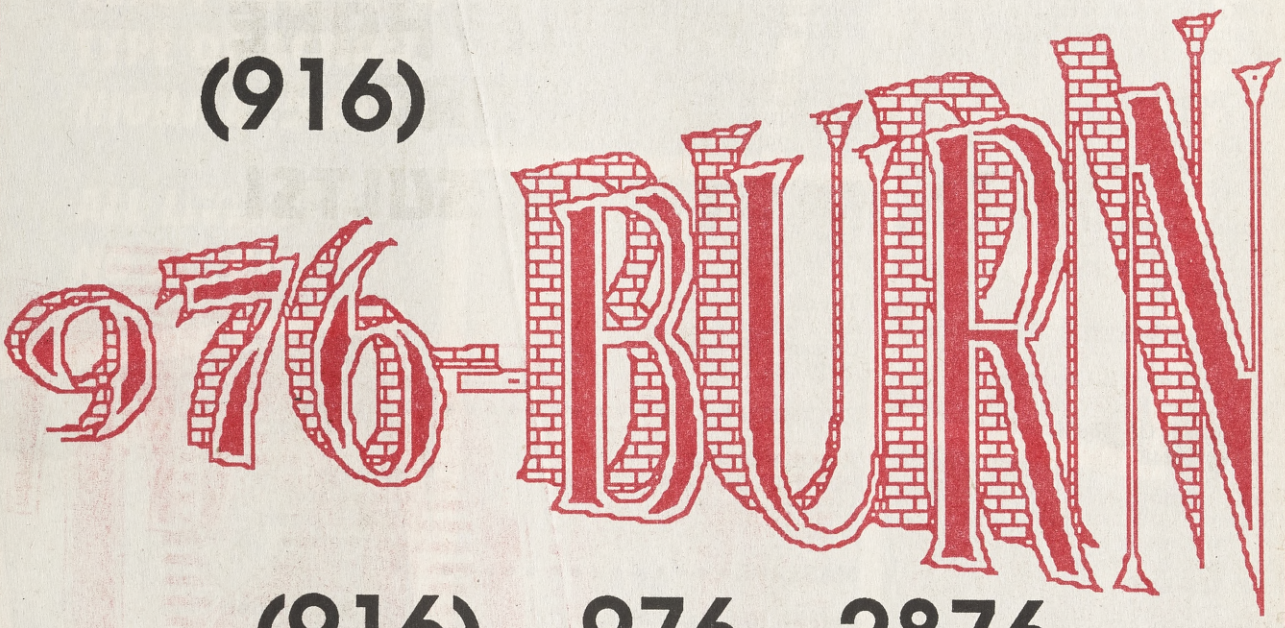

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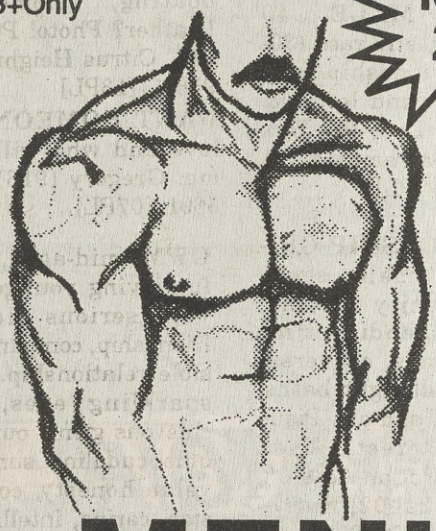

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GWM, 600 months old, is available to meet a man who is friendship/relationship oriented. An affectionate, carrying & nurturing personality gets a plus rating. Please respond with phone number to Patlar Ad 6-01, The Patlar, PO box 22402, Sacramento, CA 95822.

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